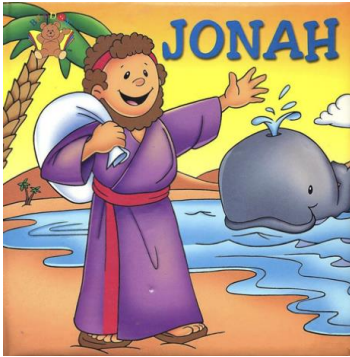


Responding to God's Grace!



The story of Jonah is quite intriguing! A simplistic children's storybook might present the message as Jonah disobeys God, then God uses a large fish to bring him back to obedience to go and preach to Nineveh. Yet this conveniently ignores Jonah's attitude in Chapter 4. This dissonance creates a great opportunity for me to challenge the preconceptions the boys have as they come to the Bible.

In Term 4, Year 8 students will look at the book of Jonah, some for the first time, others hopefully in a new light. We will be drawing on lessons learnt from Terms 1 and 2, where we looked at how the whole Bible fits together as one story that is all about Jesus, as well as learning new tools to approach an ancient text.

As we study the culture and context of Jonah, students will see how the author is challenging them with a message from God, not simply "Will you obey God?" but "What limits do you want to put on God's grace?"

My prayer for them, is that they will not just have new skills in reading an old text, but that they will personally be challenged to consider how they want God to respond to those whom they consider enemies, and what that means in God responding to them graciously even when they, were his enemies.

Tony Jones SRE Teacher NBHS



PRAYER POINTS

Normanhurst Boys'

- Give thanks for good engagement with the lessons about Jesus from Year 7 students, and pray that they would be challenged by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and consider his claims for themselves.
- Pray that Year 9 students would see that "life under the sun" is ultimately meaningless, so we need to include God in the picture.
- Pray Year 10 would learn to recognize bad arguments against Christianity, and learn how to make good arguments for what they believe.

- Pray for wisdom for Tony as he prepares a new unit for Year 10 in Term 4. Pray too for the leaders of the Friday lunchtime group, 'Connect,' as they prepare Bible discussions on Hosea, this term.

Hornsby Girls'

- Pray Year 7 students remember the stories from Genesis in a way that allows them to trace biblical themes, and see how the Bible fits as one big story. Pray the Holy Spirit convicts of their sin and need for Jesus.
- Pray that Christian students in Year 8 will model what knowing Jesus, looks like.
- Pray Year 9 students will reflect on their own beliefs, and after exploring the diverse spiritual convictions of major religions, will gain clarity on which one makes the most sense, and is attractive to them.
- Pray Year 10 students will believe their sense of worth is found in Jesus.
- Give thanks for the Wednesday Christian lunchtime group, 'Highlite,' and pray for wisdom and confidence for the new leaders, as they write and lead Bible studies on a variety of topics this term – prayer, self-control, motivation, forgiveness etc. Pray the meetings are characterized by love and hospitality to new students/those on the fringe.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR NEWS! – October 2024

We give great praise and thanks to God for generous donors!

From a budget of \$146000 for 2024, \$122000 has been received, leaving \$24000 still needed. Please pray that God will supply.

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund.

Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).

Glenys Porter,

NCEA Treasurer, October 2024